

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

DEAE-00 IO-13 JUSE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00

OES-07 OMB-01 /092 W

-----115604 132026Z /46

R 130432Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5233

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1312

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDIP MILI SNAR BM US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S COURTESY CALL ON GENERAL SAN YU

1. AMBASSABUR BEAN PAID A COURTESY CALL ON GENERAL SAN YU, SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE BURMA SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY (BSPP) AND TITULAR SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE GUB, ON APRIL 12. THE CONVERSATION WAS GENERALLY NON-SUBSTANTIVE. HOWEVER, SAN YU DID INDICATE THAT BOTH SIDES HAD SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES DURING THE BCP OCTOBER 1977 OFFENSIVE. HE ALLEGED THAT BCP LOSSES WERE GREATER THAN THOSE OF THE BURMA ARMY. ON BEING ASKED, HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE FEBRUARY-MARCH 1978 BURME ARMY ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE BCP (SEE RANGOON 863) HAD BEEN HEAVIER THAN NORMAL FOR THAT TIME OF YEAR. SAN YU SAID THAT THE BCP WAS NOW ALMOST COMPLETELY RESTRICTED TO AREAS EAST OF THE SALWEEN RIVER. DURING THIS PORTION OXBTHE DISCUSSION SAN YU STATED WITH VIGOR THAT THE BURMA ARMY WOULD "NEVER" GIVE UP KUNLONG.

2. WITH REGARD TO NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION, AFTER AMBASSADOR HAD EXPRESSED USG APPRECIATION FOR GUB  
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ANTI-NARCOTICS COOPERATION, SAN YU SAID GUB WAS DOING AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO ITS "LEVEL BEST" TO ELIMINATE OPIUM/HEROIN PRODUCTION/ TRAFFICKING IN BURMA. HE NOTED THAT THE GUB'S CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM WAS BEING HAMPERED BY THE PRESENCE OF INSURGENTS IN PRINCIPAL POPPY GROWING AREAS. HE POINTEDLY REMARKED THAT A NUMBER OF THE INSURGENT

GROUPS ARE REALLY ONLY TRAFFICKERS AND SMUGGLERS.  
HE ALSO NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO OCCUPYING POPPY  
GROWING AREAS, THE BCP WAS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN OPIUM  
TRAFFICKING.

3. COMMENT: SAN YU HAD BEEN ON THE ORIGINAL LIST  
OF GUB OFFICIALS WITH WHOM THE EMBASSY HAD REQUESTED  
APPOINTMENTS FOR AMBASSADOR BEAN IN MID-NOVEMBER  
1977. WE HAD BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY THAT A CALL WOULD  
PROBABLY NOT TAKE PLACE. WITHOUT PRIOR INDICATION,  
THE AMBASSADOR WAS TELEPHONED BY THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL  
ON APRIL 10 AND INFORMED THAT AN APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN  
ESTABLISHED FOR APRIL 12. THIS IS APPARENTLY THE  
FOURTH SHORT-NOTICE CALL THAT HAS BEEN MADE ON SAN YU  
BY A NON-FRATERNAL-SOCIALIST, NON-ASIAN AMBASSADOR  
IN THE PAST TWO AND ONE-HALF WEEKS (THE OTHERS BEING  
THE BRITISH, AUSTRALIAN AND ISRAELI). THESE FOUR  
CALLS DO NOT NECESSARILY SUGGEST THAT A NEW TREND  
IS DEVELOPING BUT, INASMUCH AS SAN YU PREVIOUSLY  
HAS RECEIVED ONLY FRATERNAL SOCIALIST AMBASSADORS  
WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE  
SUSPECTED GUB CHANGING OUTLOOK (RANGOON 977) IS  
NOW AFFECTING SAN YU. WE SHALL WATCH WITH INTEREST  
TO SEE WHETHER HE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE OTHERS FROM  
THE WESTERN AND NON-FRATERNAL STATES.

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4. SAN YU APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH, LOOKING MUCH  
YOUNGER THAN HIS SIXTY YEARS. HE ALSO ACTED AS AN  
INDIVIDUAL WHO FELT SECURE IN HIS POSITION. END  
COMMENT.  
BEAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, DRUG CONTROL, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** AMBASSADOR'S COURTESY CALL ON GENERAL SAN YU  
**TAGS:** PDIP, MILI, SNAR, BM, US, (SAN YU), (BEAN, MAURICE DARROW)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014